

# Wellington Northern Corridor

National War Memorial Park and Underpass

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## Project overview

The National War Memorial Park in Buckle Street, Mt Cook, Wellington, will be the Government's key project to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War and the centrepiece of Anzac Day commemorations in 2015.

The park will be achieved by putting State Highway One - Buckle Street between Tasman, Tory and Taranaki Streets - underground in a trench and tunnel to allow the creation of a Memorial Precinct on top. The park and underpass is a key link within the Northern Corridor Road of National Significance.

Along with the announcement of the park in August 2012, the Government also enacted the National War Memorial Park (Pukeahu) Enabling Act - Pukeahu because that is the Maori name for the Mt Cook hill in Wellington. This is special legislation to allow the NZ Transport Agency to accelerate the underpass and the Ministry for Culture and Heritage to accelerate the park in time for Anzac Day 2015. The Memorial Park Alliance has been formed to carry out the works.

The National War Memorial commemorates the more than 300,000 New Zealanders who have served their country and the 30,000 who have died. When the Carillon, the first part of the National War Memorial, was opened in 1932, it commanded a dominant position overlooking the city and was easily visible from most areas of the capital. The new park will develop this area into the Memorial Precinct made up of the existing Carillon, Hall of Memories and Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and the new Ceremonial Plaza.

Buckle Street was diverted from its former route in January 2013 to allow the underpass to be built. The next major milestone will be opening the underpass to traffic in late 2014.



National War Memorial Park - artist's impression looking from the east

## What is the Alliance?

The Memorial Park Alliance team has been established between New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), Downer, HEB, Tonkin & Taylor and URS to deliver the National War Memorial Park and Underpass.

The park and the underpass are two projects in one: NZTA is charged with delivering the underpass; NZTA and the Ministry

for Culture and Heritage have entered a collaborative contract to deliver the park; and the Memorial Park Alliance is the team delivering both.

The Memorial Park information centre is in the project's site office at 175 Taranaki Street. Look for the building with the Carillon and green park scene painted around the entrance door.



2012-2015: The Memorial Park Alliance team.



## Who are the Memorial Park stakeholders?

Memorial Park has a range of important stakeholders including the neighbours and wider community, road users, visitors to the National War Memorial, regulatory authorities, utility companies, sponsors Wellington City Council, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the First World War Centenary Programme Office (WW100), and NZTA.

Neighbours affected on a daily basis by the project include schools, in particular Mt Cook School, Massey University College of Creative Arts and Wellington High School. Businesses adjoining the work site are also stakeholders and include the occupants of the historic Mt Cook Police Barracks.

Partners with the Alliance in this project are:



## Phases of work

### Phase One - Site Preparation (Late 2012 – Early 2013)

This included making the temporary Buckle Street Diversion road to the north of where it was previously which will serve as State Highway 1 during the construction of the underpass.



29 October 2012: Pupils from Mt Cook School turn the sod at the site blessing for the National War Memorial Park.

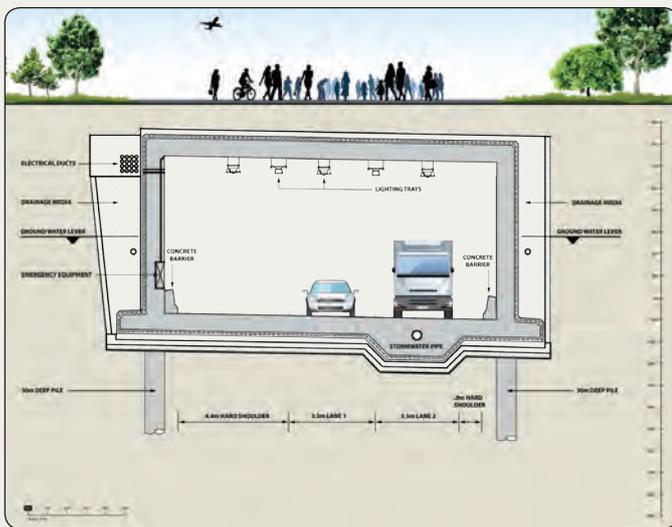
### Phase Two - Dig the Trench (Early 2013 – Late 2013)

Excavation and reinforcement of the trench in which the tunnel structure will be set.



### Phase Three - Construct the Tunnel (Late 2013 – Late 2014)

Building of the structures and road surfaces which will form the underpass.



### Phase Four - Build the Park (Late 2014 – Anzac Day 2015)

Construction of the terraces, walkways and paved areas, the Ceremonial Plaza, and installation of other nations' memorials, including the Australian memorial, which will be the National War Memorial Park.



2015: Our Anzac partner, Australia, will build a memorial in the park opposite the New Zealand National War Memorial.



# History

The National War Memorial Park will open in time for Anzac Day on the 25th of April in 2015. On that day it will be 100 years since the start of our young country's first major battle.

Anzac Day is named after the ANZACs – the men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who fought in that battle at Gallipoli in Turkey.

The National War Memorial Park is more than just the sum of four phases. It should be seen in the context of the past and future of the Buckle Street area and New Zealand. Buckle Street and Mt Cook have always had an important part in our history.

The Alliance is digging down 12 metres and uncovering the treasures of the past in the process. Archaeologists employed by the Alliance have already found a gun emplacement and pieces of an old cannon relating to the area's military history.

Mt Cook had good views around the harbour so it was important to the Maori who lived here long before the European settlers came. The Maori called the hill Pukeahu and they had a pa – a fort – on the hill. They used the slopes of the hill for vegetable gardens until the European settlers came in 1840.

When the first settlers arrived, they also thought Mt Cook, as they renamed it, was a good place for defence so they built their army and police barracks and prisons along Buckle Street. They wanted to defend themselves against any disputes with Maori over land and to guard against invasion by other countries.

When the Government decided to build the National War Memorial after the First World War, Mt Cook was chosen as the best spot because it had long been a place for defence and because a tall memorial tower built here would be seen from all around.

At the same time it was decided to further reflect the importance of this area by building the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum on the site behind the memorial.

Mt Cook was also important for education. Mt Cook School was the first and started in 1875 as the Buckle Street public school for boys and girls. Other schools that started on Mt Cook are now known as Wellington High School and Massey University College of Creative



Anzac Day, 25 April 1932: 50,000 people stand in silence for the dedication of the Carillon on Mt Cook – the first of the National War Memorial buildings. Source: Alexander Turnbull Library; Ref: 1/1-020293-G; Photo: Sydney Charles Smith 1888-1972

Arts – the latter having taken over the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum building.

Through the years Buckle Street turned from a track into the wide road that we know as part of State Highway One, the main route through Wellington for traffic to and from the airport.

Every year the road is closed for memorial services at the National War Memorial. With the construction of the Memorial Park Underpass, this road will remain open at all times and will maintain its major role in the Northern Corridor Road of National Significance.

The National War Memorial Park on top of the underpass will then have the capacity to provide plenty of room for the thousands attending the memorial services from that time onward.

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